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Amendment F  
U.S. appl. no. 10/579,954Atty. ref. P03096US2A  
Page 2 of 6

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-39 (*canceled*).

40 (*currently amended*). A method of ~~making~~ providing an amine-functionalized polymer, comprising:

- a) in a reaction medium comprising at least one of a C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> cyclic alkane, a C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> acyclic alkane, an alkylated C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> cyclic alkane, an alkylated C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> acyclic alkane, or a liquid aromatic solvent, reacting a living polymer comprising unsaturated mer that consists essentially of polyene mer and, optionally, vinyl aromatic mer, said polymer having a living terminus, with a cyclic compound comprising at least one three or four siloxane unit units in its ring structure so as to provide an intermediate functionalized living polymer having at its terminus a radical of said cyclic compound, said radical constituting no more than about 400 g/mol of said intermediate functionalized living polymer; and
- b) introducing into said reaction medium an amine comprising an active hydrogen atom attached to the amino nitrogen atom of said amine and allowing said amine to chemically bond to said intermediate functionalized living polymer, thereby providing said amine-functionalized polymer.

41-42 (*canceled*).

43 (*currently amended*). The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 40 wherein at least one of the silicon atoms of said cyclic compound comprises at least one C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> substituent.

44 (*previously presented*). The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 40 wherein each of the silicon atoms of said cyclic compound comprises at least one C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> substituent.

Amendment F  
U.S. appl. no. 10/579,954

Atty. ref. P03096US2A  
Page 3 of 6

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45 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 44 wherein said cyclic compound is hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane or octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane.

46 (*currently amended*). The method of claim 40 wherein said living polymer has an overall 1,2-microstructure of from about 25 to 65%.

47 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 40 wherein said reaction medium further comprises a polar coordinating compound.

48 (*currently amended*). The method of claim 40 wherein said living polymer further comprises about 1 to about 50 weight percent vinyl aromatic mer units.

49 (*currently amended*). The method of claim 48 wherein said vinyl aromatic mer units are randomly distributed in said living polymer.

50 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 49 further comprising removing said amine-functionalized polymer from said reaction medium and blending said amine-functionalized polymer with one or more types of filler particles so as to form a rubber compound.

51 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 50 wherein said rubber compound further comprises at least one other type of rubber.

52 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 51 wherein said rubber compound further comprises a vulcanizing agent.

53 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 52 further comprising vulcanizing said rubber compound.

54 (*canceled*).

55 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 54 further comprising removing said amine-functionalized polymer from said reaction medium and blending said amine-

Amendment F  
U.S. appl. no. 10/579,954

Atty. ref. P03096US2A  
Page 4 of 6

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functionalized polymer with one or more types of filler particles so as to form a rubber compound.

56 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 55 wherein said rubber compound further comprises at least one other type of rubber.

57 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 56 wherein said rubber compound further comprises a vulcanizing agent.

58 (*previously presented*). The method of claim 57 further comprising vulcanizing said rubber compound.

59 (*cancel*ed).